

American Free Trade Agreement, which clearly did not work for our country. It is the same old story. With every trade agreement, the President promises more jobs for Americans, growth in manufacturing, more exports, raising the standard of living in the developing world, better wages for workers in the developing world. Every time it comes out differently.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and then expecting a different outcome.

Why will this trade agreement not work? Look at the average wages in the CAFTA countries. In United States the average wage is \$38,000. El Salvador is \$4,800. Honduras is \$2,600. Nicaragua is \$2,300. The average Nicaraguan worker is not going to buy cars made in Ohio. The Guatemalan worker is not going to be able to buy steel from West Virginia. The Honduran worker is not going to be able to buy software from Seattle or prime cuts of beef from Nebraska or textiles or apparel from North Carolina or South Carolina or Georgia.

This trade agreement is about giving big business what it wants: access to cheap labor. They cannot buy our goods; but American business can move its production, its companies, outsource them to Central America, and it costs us jobs. That is why, Mr. Speaker, there is such strong bipartisan opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

The administration is pulling out all stops because they know they are going to lose this vote. The administration has attempted to link CAFTA with helping democracy in the developing world and fighting the war on terror. Ten years of NAFTA has done nothing to improve border security between Mexico and our country. So that argument does not sell. Then last week the U.S. Chamber of Commerce flew on a Chamber of Commerce junket the six presidents from the CAFTA countries around our Nation, hoping they might be able to sell Americans and the U.S. press and Members of Congress on the Central American Free Trade Agreement, but again they failed. In fact, the Costa Rican president, after traveling the United States, announced his country simply would not ratify CAFTA unless an independent commission could determine that agreement will not hurt the poor and working families in his country.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the most powerful Republican in the House, majority leader, said there would be a vote on CAFTA within a year of the President's signing, that is, by Memorial Day, coming next week. As we can see by this calendar, we are barely a week away from that deadline, but still no vote in sight because there is simply not enough support for CAFTA. It is dead on arrival in this House.

Last month, two dozen Democrats and Republicans in Congress joined 150

business and labor groups saying no on CAFTA. Last week more than 400 union workers and Members of Congress gathered in front of the Capitol again saying no on the Central American Free Trade Agreement, because Republicans and Democrats, business and labor groups know what the administration refuses to admit, and that is that CAFTA is about one thing: it is about access to cheap labor and exploiting workers in the six CAFTA countries.

Congress must throw out this dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA and negotiate a trade agreement that will lift up workers in Central America while promoting prosperity here at home.

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If we throw this agreement CAFTA out, and then negotiate a new central American Free Trade Agreement that really works for workers in both countries, we will know our trade policy is succeeding. Only when workers in the poor countries can afford to not just make American products, but also to buy American products, will we know that our trade policy has, in fact, succeeded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DUNCAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM ON OUR YOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to talk before the House tonight, and I want to talk about an issue that has been discussed for a number of weeks and months, something that is of vital importance, I think, to all Americans, and that is the issue of Social Security and what do we do about it.

Now, the problem with Social Security, as everybody knows, is that it is a pay-as-you-go-system, which means that today's workers pay for today's retirees. It worked relatively well for a period of time. In 1950, there were 16 workers for every retiree, now there are 3.3 workers for every retiree, and in just a few short years there will be 2 workers for every retiree. So the demographics, the aging of our society dictate that we do something.

A lot of the talk has been about how does it affect seniors in our Nation. But I suggest to my colleagues that regardless of when you believe the problem or the situation or the crisis begins, or who you believe it affects, we cannot dispute this one fact, and that is that those most affected by it, regardless of when it happens or what happens, are the young people of this Nation. So I believe it is important for us to discuss and debate Social Security reform and how it will affect all sectors of our society, but we must, we must make certain that we talk about how it will affect young folks.

Now, in my district, what I did to try to listen to the young people of our Nation was to get together what is called a Youth Summit, and I set up a meeting with about 95 or 100 high school juniors and seniors in my district from all different schools, including Woodstock High School, Harrison, Kell, Lassiter, Etowah, Marietta High School, North Cobb, Pope, Sprayberry, Walton, Blessed Trinity, Centennial, Milton, North Spring, Riverwood, Roswell, and The Cottage School and Alpharetta High School, about 100 high school students, and sent them a bunch of material beforehand so they knew what we were talking about. The funny thing was a lot of them had great information about it before.

We gathered together for about 4 hours one morning and we talked about Social Security, and I challenged them to come up with some solutions and answer some questions. But when I started, I brought out this Social Security statement. This is a real Social Security statement, it came from the Social Security Administration, and this is what all of us get when we open up our mail from the Social Security Administration. It says, "Unless action is taken soon to strengthen Social Security, in just 14 years we will begin paying more in benefits than we collect in taxes." That was how we started as the premise.

I was extremely impressed by the knowledge and the intelligence of these young folks. We broke into different groups and assigned them questions. Now, they could take any question that they wanted, but we kind of prompted a few. We talked about discussing the benefits or the distractions or problems with personal accounts, and we asked them to answer the question: what is the best way to fix Social Security and, even the more fundamental question, do you believe that Social Security needs to be fixed, and asked them to talk about how personal retirement accounts, voluntary accounts have worked in other countries.

Then we got back together after they had worked for a period of time on those questions, and asked each of those groups to present their findings. It really was fascinating, but there was one common theme. There was a common theme to all of their conclusions, and that was that there is a major problem, every one of them believed